



Issue 3

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Volume 12

To the members of Dunham-Singletary Family Connections:

The format and scope of this issue of the quarterly newsletter will be a little different than usual. First, it contains only the report on my research in England from June 19-29, 2015; and second there is no letter from our President, Jeff Dunham. We will revert to the usual format for the 15 October issue. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the members who supported my research trip with financial donations. This allowed me to stay the extra ten days in England after my tour was over. It was an incredible experience and I hope that my report in this issue will give all of you a feel for the places I visited where our Dunham ancestors lived and worked over 400 years ago.

I also want to thank Mary Wooldridge of the Bedfordshire Family History Society who helped me with the research on the Bedfordshire parishes and also assisted greatly in deciphering some of the old script from the early records. Mary also helped me go through the old Court Rolls of Pirton looking for the first instance of the Dunham name.

As some of you know Mr. Arthur Dunham of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, England participated in the Dunham DNA testing program and his Y-chromosome results matched the proven descendants of Deacon John Dunham who is the ancestor who came to America. It is fairly certain that Arthur Dunham's line descends from Richard Dunham's son William, and work is ongoing to prove this connection. Since my experience in Bedfordshire working with the parish registers, I think we should be able to achieve this goal. I met Arthur Dunham and his daughter Julie Dennison at their home in Dunstable. Please see the photo of Arthur, Julie and myself on the last page of this newsletter.

Again, I want to thank you for your support of my research. We have a category on the web page at www.dunham-singletary.org for research donations and I hope that you will continue to contribute to the on-going research which is one of the goals of this organization.

Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor

Report on my Research Trip to England

By Gratia Dunham Mahony

From June 19 to June 29 I was in Bedfordshire England researching the ancestry of Deacon John Dunham who is the ancestor of many of the members of Dunham-Singletary Family Connections. My goal was two fold: to learn the name of Deacon John's mother, the wife of Richard Dunham; and to learn how John Dunham became involved with the Henlow families who sailed to America on *The Mayflower* in 1620. The ability to actually be in the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire villages where the Dunhams lived over 400 years ago aided my ability to understand the movements of the family.

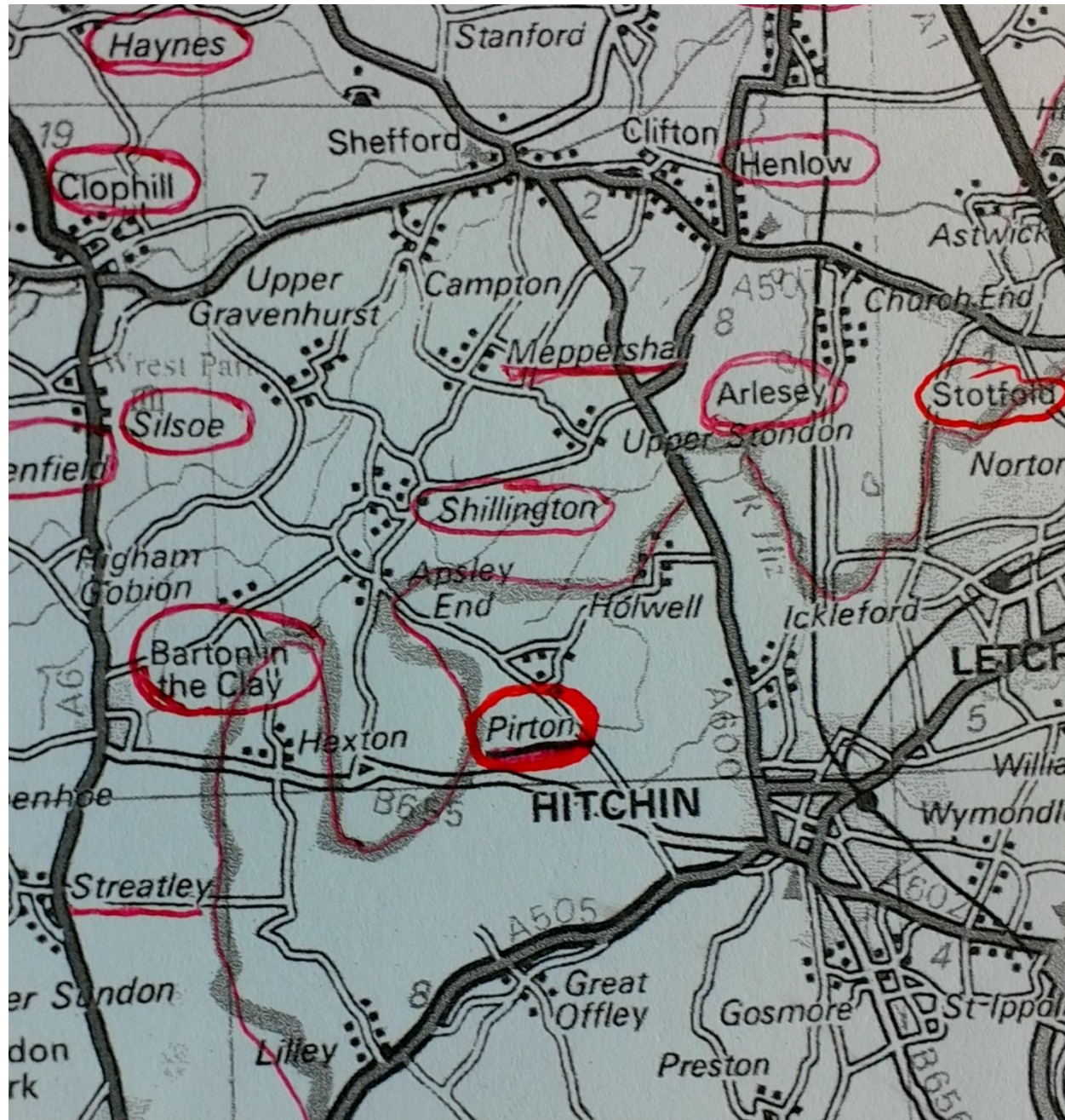
What impressed me the most was just how close together all the nucleated villages are to one another, and how relatively few families lived within their bounds. The county boundary between Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire runs between Pirton (in Hertfordshire) and Shillington, Henlow, Arlesey and Stotfold (all in Bedfordshire). The countryside was beautiful with rolling hills covered with ripening hay and grain. The houses in these villages are all quite close together, often even attached, and the lot sizes are small. Old historic houses are located next to newer homes but the general look of the villages was neat and clean with flowers growing in nearly every front garden. It is the custom in England to reserve space to park ones car between the road and the front of the house, so most small "front yards" have become a car park covered in gravel or a hard surface.

The country roads are extremely narrow, and probably follow old cart ways so they are not straight. Shoulders along the side of these roads are nonexistent and the edge of the road is often considerably higher than the road bed, and often covered with hedges growing all along the side of the road. For me, driving on the left side of the road, and the narrowness of the roads was a concern, however I was able to return the rental car without any "dings" or tire cuts, and so got my deposit back!

Another thing that strikes the visitor to Bedfordshire immediately is the fact that even today the fields surround the villages, and few farm houses are located in the countryside. The size of the fields is likely larger due to the fact that fields have been combined under one ownership, and the ridge and furrow system is no longer in use. Most fields are still surrounded by hedge rows and groups of trees dot the area, although I saw no major wooded areas in Bedfordshire.

The following pages will describe villages lived in by the Dunhams, beginning with Pirton. I would urge readers to refer to an earlier article that appeared in the 15 October, 2013 issue of DSFC on pages 4-7 entitled Seventh Century Pirton. I hope the map on the following page will give you some idea of the size and location of these villages. Unfortunately the Parish Registers do not extend back far enough in time to allow us to reach back much further but I hope that knowledge of these villages will allow you to learn something more about our Dunham ancestors and their lives 400 years ago.

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Pirton a Village in Hertfordshire

An archeological project was conducted in Pirton between 2007-2011 and the work was done by a group based at the University of Cambridge called “Currently Occupied Rural Settlement” (CORS). The project was done under the direction of Carenza Lewis and the following information is from her report on Pirton Digs.

“Pirton is today a nucleated village clustered around the church and adjacent earthwork remains of an imposing motte and bailey castle.”

“Evidence from test pits produced shards of pottery dating from the ninth to eleventh centuries, strongly indicating the presence of settlement of later Anglo-Saxon in this area. A large number of pottery finds from pits also showed evidence of activity dating between 1100-1400 AD. This large number indicate a dramatic expansion of activity following the Norman Conquest. The amount of pottery shards from the mid eleventh to mid fourteenth century suggest that the village was densely settled. In the post fourteenth century there is a dramatic drop off in the volume of post fourteenth century pottery. This suggests a considerable drop off in the population possibly the result of epidemics of plague. There may have been only five small clusters of occupation left in Pirton. Based on the evidence, recovery does not seem to have been established until the seventeenth century. An area of excavation immediately west of the Toot Hill medieval motte confirmed that this part of the settlement came into existence in the twelfth century near the time when the castle was built. This was not a stone castle but probably a timber tower built by Alan or Gerard de Limesy, who were the son and grandson of the Norman knight Ralph de Limesy. Ralph de Limesy had been rewarded with a number of parcels of land by William the Conqueror, and one of them was at Pirton.”

Even on this June day when I climbed to the top of the hill (Toot Hill means look out) I could see a long distance in all directions, although the view today is obstructed by houses and trees. The Icknield Way passed directly through Pirton, coming in from the southwest and going around the motte and bailey and then splitting off toward Hitchin and Letchworth. The Icknield Way was built by the Romans but includes parts of even more ancient track ways.

The village of Pirton comprises a triangular shaped village in the center surrounded by a large area of open fields. The large earth mound (the motte) with a water-filled ditch and two outer defense areas (the baileys) are in the center. St. Mary's Church was built right next to the hill and is surrounded by a large grassed area called “The Bury”. The Bury (of about ten acres) contains the earthwork remains of the now deserted part of the ancient village of Pirton. Long depressions are visible which were the streets of the old village, and the low rises of ground were the home sites.

The old original manor of Pirton, awarded to Ralph de Limesy, was eventually divided into three manors. These were the manors of Pirton, Doddingselles and Rectory. Rectory Manor was created by Ralph de Limesy when he granted the church at Pirton to the Priory of St. Mary at Hertford. The manor house, known as Rectory Farm has been extensively altered in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but is still an impressive building. The remainder of the original manor was divided between two Oddingselles sons in the thirteenth century. William Oddingselles took the portion including the old Manor house (now known as Docwra manor) which was called the Manor of Pirton. Hugh Oddingselles took the portion now known as Doddingselles. This included Burge End and Hammonds Farms. Eaton College bought the Manor of Doddingselles in 1516 and the land and property was leased to local tenants.



Rectory Manor on the road to Shillington



Docwra Manor (manor house of Pirton)



Hammond Farm (Manor house of Doddingselles) located at Burge End

The Lord of the Manor had a right to hold a court for his tenants and the business of the manor was transacted at these courts and recorded in the court rolls. The Court Leet was concerned with persons, their appointments within the manor and also their punishments. The Court Baron dealt with property, the setting of rents and the leasing of land and the settlement of disputes. The decisions of the manor courts were known as “Customals” and they recorded all aspects of the administration of the manor. They are called “the court rolls”.

When these courts were called twelve men from the town appeared to “jury” the business discussed. These twelve men were listed near the beginning of the roll. The names of the men who did not or could not attend a particular court were also listed as these men were fined for not attending. Some of these court rolls still exist and these are held at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies at the County Hall in Hertford. I went to these archives to look at some of the court rolls dating in the 1500s. The rolls are in medieval Latin, and the writing is difficult to read, however I took a photo of them and Mary Wooldridge will attempt to translate parts of them. The value of seeing these rolls was to see if the name Dunham appeared in any of them, either as a selected jury man or in the body of the document. Gradually over the years some land became freehold and the remainder was copyhold. Copyhold tenure meant that when the lord of the manor leased his land, a copy of the terms of leasing had to be written in the Manor Court Rolls.

I wanted to establish the date of the first record of Richard Dunham, or the name of any Dunham who appeared in the early Pirton records. The earliest record that I found for any Dunham was filed in the Feet of Fines of Pirton under DE/cm/37844. This record is dated Hilary 1574 and states;

“Thomas Sexe and Richard Dunham, plts. (plaintifs): Thomas Copcott and Cicilia his wife, defs. (defendants).” The terms plaintiff and defendant simply mean purchaser and seller.

The land transferred to Thomas Sexe and Richard Dunham was “one messuage (house), one garden, one orchard and four acres of land in Pyrton”. It should be noted that Thomas Copcott, gentleman was the owner of quite a bit of land in Pirton.

Helen Hofton, a historian and genealogist living in Pirton, has done a lot of work to identify the locations of the old houses and fields in the village. She has identified this land purchased by Thomas Sexe and Richard Dunham as lying of the south side of the Road to Shillington. Helen drove me past this location but the house there now is not the preexisting one that Richard Dunham would have lived in. Also there is a house now on the site of the orchard.

The question that immediately springs to my mind is “Who was Thomas Sexe? There is a death/burial record for a Thomas Sexe in 1576. Was this for the same man who leased the land in 1574? Could he have been the father of Richard Dunham’s wife Agnes? If Richard Dunham was born about 1550-1553, did he come to Pirton and marry a girl from this village. The records of baptisms and marriages begin in Pirton in 1559, just a few years too late to document a baptism for Thomas Sexe’s children. We have seen (above) that Richard Dunham was in Pirton after 1574 but there is no marriage record for Richard Dunham in the Pirton records.

We do have the baptismal record for three sons of Richard Dunham’s children beginning in 1581 with the baptism of William Dunham, on 7 January 1581. We do not have baptismal records for the three daughters, (mentioned in the will of Richard Dunham), who were Alice, b. say 1579, Ann b. say 1585, and Elizabeth b. say 1592. John Dunham, who is our ancestor was baptized 8 Feb. 1589, and a brother, Richard was baptized 18 Feb. 1596.

Pirton Early Houses

An Elizabethan law required that every new house built should have four acres of land, but the land did not have to be next to the house. The church census of 1563 states that forty-two families lived in Pirton at that time. Eleven years later when Richard Dunham leased land there were probably not many more families than that number.

The earliest houses, probably timber framed and plastered with mud and churt and roofed with thatch, no longer exist. There are some houses remaining in Pirton today that were here in the late 1500s and early 1600s. These have been modified over the years, but I show examples of some of the oldest houses.



“The Old Bakery”, 28 Shillington Road. One of the oldest buildings in Pirton still standing. The building dates from 1567.



Beautifully restored thatched cottage on the corner of Walnut Tree Road and High Street.

OPEN FIELDS AND FURLONGS

In medieval England each village was surrounded by open, unhedged fields grouped for cultivation purposes into several blocks and divided into a multitude of strips (furlongs), all individually leased, but farmed according to an agreed common system.

At the ends of the strips were the headlands, which were strips of land left unploughed on which the ploughing oxen teams could turn. Between the furlongs were baulks which were unploughed pieces of land used as access paths, and often for grazing, by tethered animals. A common feature of medieval open fields is the ridge and furrow. Examples of this can still be seen in some fields. As the ploughing was done the earth was moved into a ridge in the middle, leaving an enlarged furrow at each side. The fields were always ploughed in the same direction so this accentuated the ridges and furrows.

The only other land record I could find for Richard Dunham in Pirton was a Memorandum of Surrender, dated 23 September 1606. The identification number in the Hertfordshire Archives is DE/cm 37910. This record is for land in the fields and must have been worked together with John Hammond. The memorandum reads:

“John Hammond to William Field

Richard Dunham to William Field

½ acre on Long Dane, 1 rood on Redding Furlong

½ acre on Byrdguage (Bridgeway)

½ acre in Clayfield, 1 rood on Peason Hill”

(A rood is a measurement of land equal to 1/4 of an acre.)

Since Richard Dunham was surrendering land in the fields, this suggests that he was leaving Pirton at this time. He had lived in Pirton for 32 years.

FOLLOWING THE CHILDREN OF RICHARD DUNHAM

It will be useful to follow the children of Richard Dunham and look for any clues their records may provide. The following will describe the children in the year 1606.

The oldest child of Richard Dunham was Alice, b. say 1579 and age about 27. She married in Arlesey to Lawrence Underwood 3 July 1601. Arlesey is north east of Pirton and less than two miles south of Henlow in Bedfordshire. Lawrence and Alice (Dunham) Underwood had a daughter, Ellen, named in the will of Richard Dunham.

William Dunham, the oldest son of Richard Dunham was baptized in Pirton 7 Jan. 1581, so he would have been age 25 in 1606. He was buried in Pirton 26 September 1632 but he lived in Arlesey from 1610 to at least October 1619. If this is the William who m. Susan Gregorie on 1 Nov. 1609 in Hexton, they moved to Arlesey where four children were baptized between 1610-1619.

The next child was probably Ann, b. say 1685 and she would have been 21 in 1606. She married, but we do not know the name of her husband. She had a son Richard.

John Dunham was the next child born in 1589 so age 16 when Richard surrendered the land in Pirton in 1606. He married Susan Caino 17 August 1612. She was of Clophill, but their first child was baptized 19 February 1614/15 in Henlow.

The next child was Elizabeth b. say 1592, so she was age 14 in 1606. She married in Arlesey in 1615.

The youngest child was Richard b. in 1596, so age 10 in 1606.

The above records indicate that Richard Dunham moved out of Pirton in 1606 and went to Arlesey. I asked Susan Newsum, my B&B hostess, how close Arlesey was to Henlow, she replied "no more than two miles". She offered to take me to Arlesey and on the way we turned right out of Oak Drive and she showed me the pathway leading from Henlow to Arlesey. This path connects the church in Arlesey and the church in Henlow, and the distance if you walked this path would have been very short, maybe a mile plus. Then she drove me over to Arlesey and we saw the church there and the old center of the town. Most villages in England are laid out around the church, but a few are laid out in more of a line. Arlesey is one of what is called a "long" village. It has two clusters of settlement, the one around the church and then another smaller one which is further away. As Susan drove me past this smaller settlement, and almost into the next village of Stotfold, I remembered that Agnes, wife of Richard Dunham, was buried in Stotfold in January 1623/24. If Richard Dunham was living in Arlesey, and if he was living in this smaller settlement, it made perfect sense that his wife would be buried in Stotfold.

My days spent in Pirton and in the nearby villages in Bedfordshire not only allowed me to see the area where our ancestors lived, but to realize that the close proximity of these villages made it possible and quite likely that people walked from place either looking for work (especially at harvest time), or when young men might be courting. Our ancestor, John Dunham, would have been a young man in his late teens and early twenties, and if we picture him living in Arlesey, it is easy to see how he might have met and courted a woman living in the nearby village of Clophill.

Clophill, Bedfordshire, England

Excerpts from "Clophill, A village within English history" by Paul Nichols. The manor of Clophill and its place in English history.

The Norman invasion of 1066 had a greater influence on Bedfordshire parishes than its initial influence on other areas of England. The route of their marching army included the Icknield Way which took them through the royal manors of Luton, Houghton Regis and Leighton, all which were seized along the way,

the soldiers foraging as they went. King Harold's property at Westoning was sequestered as was the town of Bedford. This meant disaster for the surrounding parishes who could ill afford the loss of meagre supplies upon which their future depended and Clophill, lying in the hundred of Flitt was one of the worst affected.

The possession of Bedford ensured that a castle was soon erected and Ralph Tallebosc was installed there to hold it on behalf of the Norman King. Tallebosc set about annexing land from villages around Bedford to add to the royal estate and Clophill lands were included. One of the Conqueror's men who accompanied him in the invasion was Hugh de Beauchamp and by 1086 he had married Matilda Tallebosc. She later benefited from the inheritance of her late father Ralph and his widow Azelina and with her husband de Beauchamp installed as baron at Bedford Castle he was able to manage the King's lands in Bedfordshire.

Another Norman baron to accompany the Conqueror was William of Augigny who arrived with his two sons Roger and Nigel. Roger d'Albini became the father of two sons from whom descended the Albini earls of Arundel and Mowbray. William's younger son Nigel was appointed to manage the lands sequestered in twenty four Bedfordshire parishes and outlying manors in Buckingham, Warwick and Leicester and this baron, Nigel d'Albini chose to make his headquarters in 'Clopelle' where a motte and bailey castle had been built at 'Cainhou'. It was likely no more than an earthen rampart and timber stockade.

From his castle Nigel d'Albini 1st baron of Cainhou Castle could see the site of two of his manors, Cainhou, to the south, and over the woodland to the distant hill to the north on which stood the few wattle and daub huts of the hamlet of Clopelle. The manors were always held together and became known as the Manor of Clophill and Cainhoe during the descent of their ownership throughout the centuries. Together with a third baron, Walter de Wahull of Odell, the barons Hugh de Beauchamp of Bedford and Nigel d'Albini of Cainhoe governed the major part of Bedfordshire including the villages of Arlesey, Clifton, Campton, Barton-le-Clay and Henlow.

In the year 1348 the Black Death rushed across Europe and struck and left England a very different place. Whole villages succumbed to the pestilence with no one left to bury the dead and by 1349 it had reached Cainhoe where all the bondmen and cottars died of the pestilence. It can be reasonably surmised that it was after this time that the village was re-established away from the empty cottages surrounding the church of St. Mary. Thus Cainhoe became deserted and the new village grew up around the church at Clophill, about a half mile from the old church of St. Mary.

Clophill Manor

The Manor House at Clophill passed through various inheritances until the year 1585 when it was conveyed to Richard Charnock. The manor descended in the Charnock family for the next 300 years. We have two descriptions about the size of Clophill, one from a book "The Clophill Story" by Mary Phillips, pub. in 2010 which states "in 1563 Clophill had 25 families suggesting a population of 100-125.

The next description is about 1605 and states: "The extent of the manor in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was 20 messuages (houses or cottages), 20 tofts (homestead with attached arable land), 1 water-mill, 1 dovecote (this belonged to the manor house), 500 acres land, 500 acres meadow, 500 acres pasture, 200 acres wood and 100 acres of heath."

In a reference to possible Puritan leanings by the Charnock family the following may indicate that Susan Kaino, living in Clophill where she was born in 1586 may have been knowledgeable of the Puritan interests of the Charnocks. In a book of Female Recusants in State Papers Domestic in the reign of Elizabeth there is mention of a wife of John Charnock 'a man greatly noted and suspected in religion and hath as I am credibly informed great and often repair to his house of such as not to be liked or trusted in these dangerous times.'

The house now known as Beadlow Cottage which belonged to the Charnocks, their descendants and heirs for some three hundred years and was retained by them when they parted with their manorial rights in the mid seventeenth century contains what is believed to be a priest's hole in a secret room.

Clophill Parish Register

The Parish Registers for Clophill begin in 1558 and there are very few entries for the surname Cainehoe/Ceynahoe/Caino/Kaino. Listed below are the only entries for the period up to 1620.

Baptisms:

1585, Oct. 18 Jn s. Ronold Ceynahoe

1586, Dec. 12 Susan d. Thomas Cainehoe

1587, May 1 Cath. D. Renold Ceynehoe

Marriage:

1612, Aug. 17 Jn Dunham – Susan Kaino

1613, Feb. 28 Wm. Finton – Mary Cainehoe [given Caino in Bishops Transcripts]

Death/Burials:

1582, May 15 Lawr. S. Reynold Cano/Canoo

1585, Nov. 9 Jn s. Reynold Cainehoe

1612, Apr. 15 Thos. Caynehoe [Kaino in Bishops Transcripts]

1614, May 2 Mary Cayso [Cayho in Bishops Transcripts], widow

1630, Feb. 7 Joan Keno, widow

In analyzing the above entries it appears that Reynold and Thomas Cainehoe were brothers. Reynold probably had the following three children:

- i. Lawrence, b. d. 15 May 1582
- ii. John, b. 18 Oct. 1585; d. 9 Nov. 1585
- iii. Catherine b. 1 May 1587

There is only one birth of a child to Thomas Caynehoe/Kaino and that is:

- i. Susan Kaino b. 12 Dec. 1586

This is the Susan Kaino who married John Dunham on 17 August 1612.

It is possible that the Mary Caineheo who married Wm. Finton on 28 Feb. 1613 was also a daughter of Thomas.

The death/burial on 15 April 1612 is for Thomas Caynehoe/Kaino (father of Susan).

The death/burial on 7 Feb. 1630 is for Joan, the widow of Thomas, and for the mother of Susan.

No further entries for anyone from the Caynehoe family are found in Clophill. There is no record of where this family came from prior to the 1582 entry, but it is likely that the ancestors of Thomas and Reynold Caynehoe took the name from the location and may have lived in Cainhoe from ancient times.

Barton le Clay or Barton in the Clay

This ancient village was also a portion of the domaine of Nigel d'Albini, and is only a few miles from Clophill and Cainhoe. The Parish Registers in Barton le Clay begin in 1567 and an intriguing record of the marriage of **Thomas Keynoe to Joan Croxon/Croxton appears on the register on 28 July 1583**. This is almost certainly the marriage of the parents of Susan Kaino, who was born 12 Dec. 1586 in Clophill.

Arlesey

Arlesey was a market town and this may have prompted Richard Dunham to move there. Also, there seems to be a long association with the Underwood family who lived in Pirton, Arlesey and also in Henlow. I have not studied this Underwood family. Richard Dunham's oldest daughter, Alice, had married Lawrence Underwood on 3 July 1601 in Arlesey.

Because of the number of baptisms of the Dunham family members in Arlesey (which were first printed in the 15 July 2013 DSFC newsletter) I want to give them here again within the context of this article.

The Dunham Family in the line of Richard ¹ Dunham

Generation One

- 1. Richard ¹ Dunham** b. about 1550-54; ^[1] died as a resident of Langford, Bedfordshire County, England between 25 October 1624, ^[2] and 19 November

1624. "Father Dunham, an old man" was buried at Langford on 19 November 1624.^[3] His wife was named **AGNES** and she was buried at Stotfold on 14th January 1623/24.^[4]

It is not known where Richard¹ Dunham was born but his sons were all baptized in Pirton, Hertfordshire County between the years of 1581-1596. Richard was likely a farmer (or agricultural labourer, the term used at that time.) He called himself "poulter" in his will, and may have been raising turkeys or geese.

Children of Richard¹ and Agnes (unknown) Dunham:^[5]

2. i. Alice² Dunham b. say 1579 if age 20 at marriage
3. ii. William² Dunham bp. 7 Jan. 1581 Pirton, Herts.
4. iii. Ann² Dunham b. say 1585
5. iv. John² Dunham bp. 8 Feb. 1589 Pirton, Herts.
6. v. Elizabeth² Dunham b. say 1592
7. vi. Richard² Dunham bp. 18 Feb. 1596 Pirton, Herts.

References:

1. If he was about 25 at the age of birth of first child, then he was b. approximately 1554.
2. Date of will.
3. Date of burial.
4. Parish Register of Stotfold 1559-1812, parish Register Series, Vol. 38 p. A39.
5. Named in his will or deduced from parish registers.

Generation Two

2. Alice² Dunham (Richard¹) b. say 1579 if age 20 at marriage; died probably before her father wrote his will 25 October 1625. She married Lawrence Underwood 3 July 1601 in Arlesey, Beds.^[1]

Child of Lawrence and Alice (Donhame) Underwood

- i. Ellen Underwood (named in will of Richard¹ Dunham)

References:

1. Parish Register of Arlesey 1538-1812, Parish Register Series, Volume 66, p. 61

2. William² Dunham (Richard¹) bp. 7 Jan. 1581 Pirton, Herts.;^[1] died/buried in Pirton 26 September 1632.^[2] There is a marriage listed in the Parish Registers of Hexton, Hertfordshire for William Dunham and Suesan Gregorie on 1 Nov. 1609 which may be for this William² Dunham.^[3] Children of William² and (probably Suesan Gregorie) Dunham:

8. i. Susan³ Dunham bp. 14 Feb. 1610/11 Arlesey, Beds.^[4]
9. ii. Richard³ Dunham bp. 9 Oct. 1614 Arlesey, Beds.^[5]
10. iii. Ann³ Dunham bp. 2 Feb. 1616/17 Arlesey, Beds.^[6]
11. iv. William³ Dunham bp. 10 October 1619 Arlesey, Beds.^[7]

NOTE: From the Pirton Local History Group/baptisms:, These may be a continuation of the above family:

12. v. John ³ Dunham bp. 30 June 1622 Pirton, Herts. ^[8]

13. vi. Henry ³ Dunham bp.1 May 1626 ^[9]

vii. and probably Agnes/Agnis ³ Dunham

There was a marriage in Pirton, Herts. For Agnis (Agnes) Dunham and Ed Tapster on 6 May 1642. ^[10] This Agnes is not shown in the baptisms of the children of William. This Agnes was prob. Born say 1622-1624, and there is space for a child of William b. about 1624 but she is not in the baptismal record. The given name of Agnes could be for a child named for her grandmother, Agnes the wife of Richard Dunham, poulter, of Langford. There is a record of William Dunham living in a house owned by Ed Tapster in Pirton.

References:

1. Pirton Local History Group, Record of Baptism, BAP-112
2. Pirton Local History Group, Record of Burial, BUR-264
3. Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies, Hexton, Hertfordshire Marriages-Transcripts p. 19 4. Parish Register of Arlesey 1538-1812, Parish Register Series, Volume 66 p. 13
5. Ibid. p. 13 6. Ibid. p. 14
7. Ibid. p. 15
8. Pirton Local History Group, Record of Baptism, BAP-466
9. Pirton Local History Group, Record of Baptism, BAP-511
10. Pirton Local History Group, Record of Marriage, MAR-144

4. Ann ² Dunham (Richard ¹) b. say 1585. She was named in her father's will along with her son Richard. Since her son Richard was bequeathed clothing belonging to his grandfather, he must have been at least a youth old enough that the clothing might fit him. No further information about Ann ² Dunham has been found.

Child of Ann Dunham and (unknown):

14. i. Richard ³ (unknown)

5. John ² Dunham (Richard ¹) bp. 8 Feb. 1589 Pirton, Herts.

He married first 17 August, 1612 in Clophill to Susan Kaino.

He is the immigrant to Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts.

His line is not carried out in this article. The first five generations of the descendants of John ² Dunham may be seen at www.dunham-singletary.org and by clicking on Dunham families on the left side of the home page, and then clicking on Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, MA.

6. Elizabeth ² Dunham (Richard ¹) b. say 1592; living in October 1624. ^[1] She married John Hyde September 1615 in Arlesey, Beds. ^[2]

References:

1. Named in her father's will.

Parish Register of Arlesey 1538-1812, parish Register Series, Volume 66 p. 63.

7. Richard ² Dunham (Richard ¹) bp. 18 Feb. 1596 Pirton, Herts. ^[1] He was named executor of the will of his father Richard ¹ Dunham. I have not found any indication of a marriage or children of this Richard Dunham.

References:

1. Named in his father's will; Pirton Local History Group, Record of Baptism, BAP-219

Henlow

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is set on a slight rise of ground in a very picturesque setting. From the exterior the church would have looked much as it does today with the high perpendicular tower. The baptismal font is not the same one used at the baptism of John Dunham on 19 February 1614/15 but is in the same location.



Church of St Mary the Virgin in Henlow. Another picture of this church appears on the home page of the DSFC web site.

The vicars of the parish were of Welch descent and were a father and son named Morgan. John Morgan was vicar from 1574 to 1607 and he was followed by his son Gabriel Morgan from 1607 to 1614. During the period when John Morgan was vicar he added many descriptive notes to his parish register. From these notes we can learn the occupations of the parishioners and thus form a picture of life in Henlow at that time. A remarkable feature is the prominence of sheep and the related wool industry. These allied trades connected with wool are: clothworker, dyer, fuller, shearman, weaver, woolcomber, woolman and tailor. During the period 1602-1607 the occupations of men whose children were baptized were: 7 laborers, 2 smiths, 2 husbandmen, 2 yeomen, 2 fullers, 1 shepherd, 2 millers, 1 heardsman, 1 woolman, 1 weaver, and 3 gentlemen. There were 63 families having children baptized during this 5 year period. Note: this study was only for baptisms, so it is not a complete picture of the total occupations of Henlow.

We know from studies of the *Mayflower* passengers to America in 1620 that several families from Henlow are among them. For those who are interested in studying these families in depth there is an article in *The American Genealogist* journal Vol. 52: 198-208 "English Ancestry of Seven Mayflower Passengers: Tilley, Sampson and Cooper" by Robert Leigh Ward. These families lived in Henlow and the Cowper/Cooper family had resided there for a long time. The Cooper family were first from Arlesey where Edmond Cooper, son of Michael Cooper was baptised 1 Dec. 1542. The following list of the children of Edmund Cooper/Cowper from the Henlow Parish Register will illustrate the connections of the *Mayflower* families.

Children of Edmund Cooper/Cowper: (gentleman)

m. ¹ Mary Wyne 14 August 1564 Arlesey

she d. 22 May 1598 in Henlow

m. ² Dorothy Manfield 30 Jan. 1599/1600 in Henlow

i. Elizabeth Cooper bp. 9 Sept. 1565

ii. Joan Cooper bp. 2 August 1567; d. 25 August 1567

iii. Michael Cooper bp. 9 Dec. 1571

m. ¹ 3 Dec. 1593 Alice Squire

m. ² 15 Aug. 1596 Elizabeth Moorton

(no children recorded in Henlow)

iv. Benjamin Cooper bp. 28 Aug. 1575

prob. the one who d. 25 May 1657 in Henlow

v. **Martha Cooper bp. 15 March 1577/8**

d. in Henlow 17 Aug. 1654

m. James Sampson 20 May 1599 in Henlow

Parents of Henry Samson bp 15 Jan. 1603/4 Mayflower passenger; came with

Edward and Agnes (Cooper) Tilley

vi. John Cooper bp 29 June 1580

perhaps (probably) the Mr. John Cooper of London who, with wife Mary, had
daughter

i. Elizabeth Cooper, bp. 23 Aug. 1607 at Henlow

ii. prob. Hunility Cooper Mayflower passenger; returned to England

vii. Thomas Cooper bp. 20 May 1583

viii. **Agnes Cooper bp. 7 Nov. 1585 (Mayflower passenger, d. first winter)**

m. Edward Tilley 20 June 1614 in Henlow (Mayflower passenger, d. first winter)

Edward/Edmond Tilley and John Tilley were sons of Robert Tilley

Edward/Edmond Tilley bp in Henlow 27 May 1588

John Tilley bp. 19 Dec. 1574 in Henlow

m. Joan (Hurst) Rogers* in Henlow 20 Sept. 1596

Parents of Elizabeth Tilley bp. 30 August 1607 Mayflower passenger

ix. Mary Cooper bp. 12 May 1588; d. 15 Jan. 1589/90

x. Robert Cooper bp. 24 Jan. 1590/1

m. 21 June 1614 Joan Gresham

(No children recorded at Henlow)

*Joan Hurst, Dau. of William Hurst, bp. 13 March 1567/8 in Henlow

m. ¹ Thomas Rogers 18 June 1593 in Henlow

he d. ca. 1594-5

m. ² John Tilley 20 Sept. 1596 at Henlow

The last record of the members of the Cooper family who became *Mayflower* passengers was the marriage of Edmond Tilley to Agnes Cooper on 20 June 1614. The record of the baptism of John Dunham, son of John and Susan (Kaino) Dunham was dated 19 Feb. 1614/15 (so in our current dating that would be 19 Feb. 1615).

Edmond Tilley, bp. 27 May 1588 was approximately the same age as John Dunham, bp. 8 Feb. 1589. I believe that John Dunham was living in Henlow following his marriage to Susan Kaino, and that he knew the families of Cooper, Tilley and Sampson very well. I can find no proof of blood relationship between

the Dunhams and the *Mayflower* families. I believe however that when they decided on leaving Henlow around the spring of 1615, and going possibly first to London and then to Leiden, that John and Susan (Kaino) Dunham and their small son John went with them.



Julie (Dunham) Dennison, Arthur Dunham, Gratia (Dunham) Mahony, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, England, 27 June 2015